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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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James E. Rier, Jr.
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: # V.E.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: James E. Rier, Jr., Acting Commissioner*

DATE: January 15, 2014

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Chapter 115, "Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel"

BACKGROUND:

1. On September 15, 2012, Chapter 114 ("Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs") underwent changes. Among the approved amendments included the addition of a course in special education law to all administrative certificates that did not already require one. Accordingly, Chapter 115, Part II, must now be opened to revise the corresponding certification rules.

2. The summer and early fall of 2012 saw the State Board of Education react to a directive from Public Law 635: LD 1858 "An Act to Ensure Effective Teaching and School Leadership" and established an alternative pathways stakeholders group to review possible changes to Maine's certification regulations. The group made recommendations to the certification examination process for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers. The content knowledge exam would be replaced by industry credentials or industry-related exams. The pedagogical skills and knowledge assessment would be replaced by a series of four pedagogical courses. Also recommended is the requirement of a CTE orientation program for new teachers within the first year of employment. Transition language is included to allow those continuously certified under conditional certificates to continue under current rules, but all new CTE teachers would fall under the new rules from September 1, 2015, forward.

A public hearing was held on Thursday, December 19, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM during which time several members of the public provided testimony. All testimony was in support of the proposed changes. As a result of the public hearing and comment period, no changes were made to the proposed drafted changes to Chapter 115 originally presented to the State Board of Education in November, 2013.

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education's Certification and Higher Education Committee recommends that the State Board of Education provisionally adopt the proposed changes to Chapter 115.

*Exhibit was prepared by Mark A. Cyr, Certification Coordinator